REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 1 to 12, and not 1 to 14 as noted by the Examiner, the only claims presented. The amendments to claim 1 are supported in the penultimate paragraph of page 6 and the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3.

Claim 1 to 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over DE 9313728 taken in view of WO 02/055895. The Examiner states a linear guide carriage that is mounted through rolling elements for sliding the guide carriage comprising a carrier body, and caps arrange on the body; the linear guide comprising at least one endless rolling element channel, a return channel for returning rolling and two deflecting channels that connect to the load bearing channel and the return channel endlessly to each other and are define by the end caps; a support rail arranged along the load bearing channel and supported on the carrier body comprising a raceway for the rolling elements that define the load bearing channel, the support rail comprising a support member and a saddle member, the saddle member comprising the raceway while being supported.

The Examiner concedes that the German reference does not teach the support member being received on the rail body but cites the secondary reference as

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showing this and that it would be obvious to modify the German reference in this manner.

Applicants traverse this ground of rejection since the combination of the prior art would not teach the advantages of Applicants' invention to one skilled in the art. The secondary reference does not disclose relative movement between a saddle member and a support member, but only a load bearing member 66, being supported through a biasing spring 72 on the housing 26 (fig. 2, page 6, line 29 bridging to page 7, line 1). On the other hand, the present invention allows relative tilting movement between the saddle member and the support member (presented by a wire 11) about the longitudinal axis of the support member without movement between the saddle member and the carrier body. The present claim 1 has been amended for better understanding of the structural elements and their functional interaction.

The present invention allows the application of a soft (untempered) carrier body comprising the (tempered) support member, e.g. a wire, and a (tempered) saddle member. There is no abrasive mechanical wear at the soft carrier body while compensation of disalignment is made sure by tilting of the saddle member about the longitudinal axis of the support member, having appropriate mechanical properties with regard to minimal mechanical wear. Further, very simple and cheap support member can be realized by using a simple wire as support member. A wire is a mass product, cheap and simple, can be tempered in a simple way, has an

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appropriate shape for allowing tilting of the saddle member, since the surface is cylindrical. One skilled in the art would have created a linear guide unit as presently claimed from the cited art and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, it is believed that the claims point out Applicants' invention. Therefore, favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CAM:mlp
Enclosures

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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